

REMARKS

Applicant's attorney would like to thank the Examiner for consideration given this case in the Office Action mailed June 4, 2007. Claims 1-9 and 21-30 are pending in the application. Independent claim 1 has been amended for further clarification. The Examiner has withdrawn claims 10-20 from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. Claims 21-30 have been added. Support for the claim amendments and new claims can be found in the application as originally filed. Support for amended claim 1 can be found, for example, in as-published paragraph [0052]. Support for the new claims can be found, for example in as-published paragraphs [0033] and [0065]. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-9 stand rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,772,905 (Chou '905) or U.S. Pat. No. 6,309,580 (Chou '580).

The comments in the Office Action regarding the qualification of Chou '905 and Chou '580 as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) are noted. Irrespective of whether the references are "by another" is immaterial for purposes of the present response. Even assuming arguendo for the purposes of this response, that these references are appropriate under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), Applicants submit that Chou '905 and Chou '580 do not anticipate the present claimed invention. Therefore the question of whether the instant invention is "by another" with respect to 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is rendered moot. Applicants, however, expressly reserve the right to address the applicability of Chou '905 or Chou '508 as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in this or a later filed case.

Applicants disagree that Chou '905 and Chou '580 anticipate the present claimed invention. The methods in Chou '905 and Chou '580 produce patterns that have a different structure and composition than the articles of the present claimed invention.

In Applicants' independent claim 1, Applicants claim "a plurality of self assembled pillars...**a thin film interconnecting said pillars; wherein said thin film covers said substrate...**" (emphasis added). Nowhere in Chou '905 and Chou '580 is this specific structure disclosed or claimed.

Chou '905 discloses in the Abstract that "(t)he protruding features in the mold creates a recess of the thin film. [] The thin film then is processed such that the thin film in the recess is **removed exposing the underlying substrate**" (emphasis added). Quite oppositely, in Applicants' claim 1, Applicants' "**thin film covers said substrate**" (emphasis added). In Applicants' instant invention, Applicants never disclose or claim that the substrate is exposed. Applicants clearly point out that "the high energy surface of the substrate [] **always keeps its surface [] covered with a thin layer of polymer**" (emphasis added). Regardless of the patterns, shapes, and configurations in Chou '905, Chou '905 discloses "exposing the substrate" (see Abstract; and for example col. 4, lines 29-32; FIG. 1D; col. 6, lines 15-20; and FIG. 8). An exposed substrate is not an element in Applicants' claim 1. Chou '905 teaches away from Applicants instant claim 1. At least for this reason, Chou '905 does not anticipate nor make obvious Applicants' independent claim 1.

The arguments used against Chou '905 regarding anticipation of Applicants' claim 1 equally apply against Chou '580 regarding anticipation of Applicants' instant claim 1. The Abstract of Chou '580 discloses that "(t)he thin film is processed such that the thin film in the recess is **removed exposing the underlying substrate**" (emphasis added). Further "the

present invention (Chou '580) is based on pressing a mold into a thin film on a substrate to create a relief, and later removing the compressed area of the film to **expose the underlying substrate**" (col. 5, lines 4-7). Chou '508 does not disclose "**a thin film interconnecting said pillars; wherein said thin film covers said substrate...**" as in Applicants independent claim 1 (emphasis added). At least for this reason, Chou '508 does not anticipate not make obvious Applicants' independent claim 1.

Applicants have effectively demonstrated hereinabove that Chou '905 and Chou '508 do not anticipate Applicants' claim 1. Applicants request that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn, and that the Examiner allow claim 1.

Claims 2-9 depend directly or indirectly from, and add further limitations to, independent claim 1 and are deemed allowable for at least the same reasons in connection with amended independent claim 1. Accordingly Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 2-9 and allow claims 2-9.

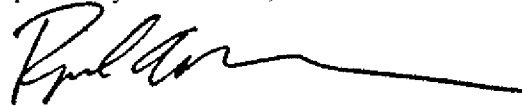
At least for the reasons above, Applicants maintain that Chou '905 and Chou '508 do not anticipate Applicants' new claims 21-30. Applicants request allowance of claims 21-30.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that the pending claims 1-9 and 21-30 are in condition for allowance and notice to such effect is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0436 for any additional fees that may be due in connection with this response.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this application, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone conference with the undersigned.

Respectfully Submitted,



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